

Cancer Research and Treatment 2001;33(6):500-511

Evaluation of E1B-mutant Replicating Adenoviruses for Cancer Gene Therapy

Jaesung Kim¹, Joo-Hang Kim, M.D.¹, Heuiran Lee, Ph.D.¹, Kyeong-Cheon Jung, Ph.D.² and Chae-Ok Yun, Ph.D.¹

¹Institute of Cancer Research, Yonsei Cancer Center, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea; ²Department of Pathology, Hallym University College of Medicine, Chuncheon, Korea

Purpose: Gene-attenuated replication-competent adenoviruses are emerging as a promising new modality for the treatment of cancer. In an effort to continually improve upon cancer gene therapy, we have modified gene-attenuated replication-competent adenoviruses so as to cause them to replicate efficiently and lyse the infected cancer cells more effectively.

Materials and Methods: We modified the E1 region of the adenovirus (Ad) systematically, generating Ad-ΔE1B19, Ad-ΔE1B55, Ad-ΔE1B19/55, and Ad-WT. The cytopathic effects (CPE) and viral replication of these four gene modified adenoviruses were compared, and the morphology and DNA fragmentation of the infected cells was evaluated.

Results: Among the constructed adenoviruses, E1B 19kD-inactivated adenovirus (Ad-ΔE1B19) was the most potent, inducing the largest-sized plaques and marked

CPE. Moreover, cells infected with Ad-ΔE1B19 showed complete cell lysis with disintegrated cellular structure whereas cells infected with Ad-WT maintained intact cellular and nuclear membrane with properly structured organelles. TUNEL assay was also used to monitor DNA integrity, and a more profound induction of apoptosis was observed in the Ad-ΔE1B19 infected cells in comparison to wild type adenovirus infected cells.

Conclusion: We demonstrate that the inactivation of the E1B19kD gene in a replicating adenovirus leads to increased CPE, rapid viral release, improved cell-to-cell viral spread and increased induction of apoptosis. (*Cancer Research and Treatment 2001;33:500-511*)

Key Words: Cancer gene therapy, Replication-competent adenovirus, Apoptosis



1990 가 가 (1,2).

가 1984 Dr. Graham (3),

가 가

Correspondence: Chae-Ok Yun, Institute of Cancer Research, Yonsei Cancer Center, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul 120-752, Korea. (Tel) 02-361-7648, 7651, (Fax) 02- 362-0158, (E-mail) chaek@yumc.yonsei.ac.kr

This work was supported by grants from Ministry of Health & Welfare, Republic of Korea (HMP-01-PJ1-PG3-20800-0115, Dr. C-O. Yun) and Ministry of Commerce Industry and Energy, Republic of Korea (N03-990-5411-01-1-3, Dr. J-H. Kim). Jaesung Kim is a graduate student sponsored by Brain Korea 21 Project for Medical Science, Yonsei University.

Received September 21, 2001, Accepted December 10, 2001

가 가 . 가
McCor-
E 1B55kDa
mick
dl1520 (ONYX-015)
p53 가
(4),
(5). E 1B55kDa
가 YKL-1
p53 가 (6,7).
, YKL-1 dl1520 E 1B55kDa 가

가

.
E IB 19kDa E IB55kDa
E IB 19kDa
Bcl-2
(8). E IB 19kDa
E IA
55kDa
가
p53
가
(9, 10).
E IB 19kDa Bcl-2가
(11).
, cisplatin paclitaxel
Bax 가
(12).
E IB
E IB 19kDa
, E IB 19kDa
가 가
가
E IB
E IB55kDa p53
p53
mRNA
mRNA
(13, 14). E IB55kDa
가
E IB55kDa

E IB 19kDa
(9 11, 13, 14),
E IB
19kDa
가
E IB 19kDa
가 E IB55kDa
가
가
1)
(SK-Hep 1,
Hep3B), (U343, U-25 1N), (A549),
E 1 가
293 , ATCC
(American Type Culture collection, Manassas, VA)
10% (GIBCO, Grand
Island, NY) DMEM peni-
cillin/streptomycin (GIBCO) 가 5 % CO₂
37°C
2)
가
E IB 19kDa E IB55kDa 가
pΔE IB 19/55
E IA
primer set E 1 pXC 1
(Microbix, Ontario, Canada) DNA poly-
merase chain reaction (PCR) , sense primer
5'-TTATTGGATCCTTTGTCTAGGGCCGCGGG-3' anti-
sense primer 5'-CCAGGATCCAGATCTCCCCATTTAA-
CACGCCATGC-3'
PCR BamHI
pCA 14 BglIII cloning pΔ
E IB 19/55 . E IB 19kDa pΔ

E IB 19kDa , pXC 1 Ad-Δ

XbaI BamHI 1.3 kb DNA E1, Ad-WT pCA 14,

pSP72 sense primer pXC 1 (Microbix)

5'-GTTACATCTGACCTCCTGTAGGCTAGCGAGTGTGTTG 293

GAAG-3' antisense primer 5'-CTTCCAAACACTCG-

CTAGCCTACAGGAGGTCAGATGTAAC-3' site- 가 (16).

directed mutagenesis (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA)

primer E IB 19kDa 3) PCR

pSP72/pXC 1/1.3kb/Δ19mt sequencing E IB 19, Ad-ΔE IB55, Ad-ΔE IB 19/55, Ad-Δ

mutagenesis Ad-WT

pSP72/pXC 1/1.3kb/Δ19mt XbaI BamHI multiplicity of infection (MOI) 10 48

pXC 1 pΔE IB 19kDa genomic isolation kit (Qiagen, Santa Clarita, CA)

E IB55kDa 가 (genome)

Ad-ΔE IB55kDa E IB55kDa E 1A, E IB 19kDa,

(10). XmnI PCR , E 1A, E IB 19,

BstBI 가 E IB55kDa PCR product electro-

vmd1324Bst (Swiss Fribourgh Verca phoresis well loading .

) BJ5 183

(homologous recombination)

(Fig. 1)(15). DNA U343 Ad-ΔE 1, Ad-ΔE IB 19/55, Ad-ΔE IB 19,

HindIII E IB 19kDa E IB55kDa Ad-ΔE IB55, Ad-WT MOI 10

Ad-pΔE IB E IB 19kDa 48 lysis

Ad-pΔE IB 19 buffer (50 mM HEPES containing 0.15 M NaCl, 0.5%

PacI 293 Ad-Δ Ad-Δ TPCK) SDS-PAGE (sodium-dodecyl

E IB 19/55 Ad-ΔE IB 19 sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis)

4) Immunoblotting

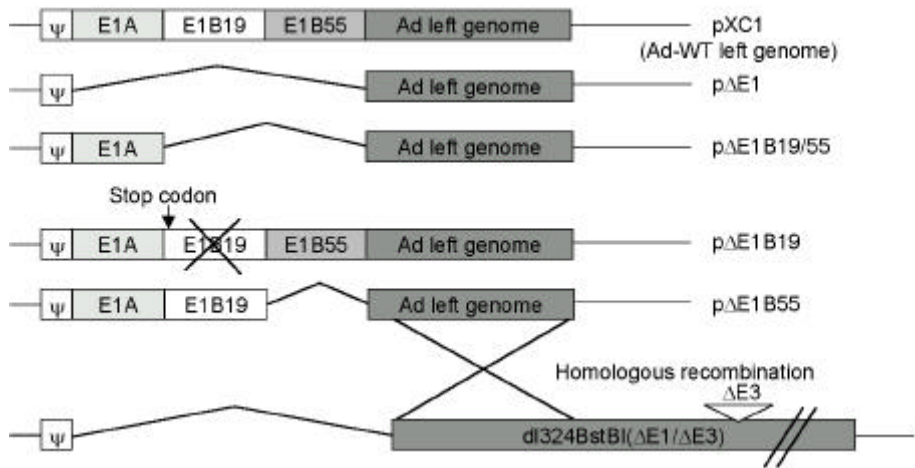


Fig. 1. Schematic representation of three E IB mutant adenoviruses, Ad-ΔE IB 19, Ad-ΔE IB55, and Ad-ΔE IB 19/55, along with Ad-ΔE1 and Ad-WT. Ad-ΔE1 is whole E1 region deleted; Ad-ΔE IB 19 contains the normal E1A and E1B55kD, but is E1B19kD translation initiation codon mutated; Ad-ΔE IB55 contains the normal E1A and E1B19kD, but is E1B55kD deleted; Ad-ΔE IB 19/55 contains E1A, but is E1B19kD and E1B55kD deleted.

gel PVDF
membrane electro-transfer E1A (sc-430; Strata-
gene, CA) E1B 19kDa (DP17; Oncogene, Uniondale,
NY)
hybridization
hybridization ECL (Amersham, Buckinghamshire,
UK) X- membrane

5)

(SK-Hep1, Hep3B),
(U343, U-251N), (A549),
E1 가
293 MOI 10, 1, 0.1 Ad-ΔE1,
Ad-ΔE1B19/55, Ad-ΔE1B19, Ad-ΔE1B55, Ad-WT

가 0.1 MOI 가

0.5% crystal violet (50% methanol)

6) Plaque

E1 가
293 , Hep3B,
U343 6well plate 70 90% confluency plating
Ad-ΔE1, Ad-ΔE1B19, Ad-WT 1×10^2
pfu/ml 2 37°C
2×DMEM (10%) penicillin/strepto-
mycin) 42°C 1.4% agarose Agarose-
DMEM 가
가 37°C , 5% CO_2
10 plaque
agarose overlay 10% TCA (Trichloro
acetic acid) 1 ml 30 agarose
overlay 0.5% crystal violet (50% methanol)

7)

Hep3B 75T flask 90% confluency
plating Ad-ΔE1B19 Ad-WT 10 MOI
2% glutaraldehyde 2 0.1 M cacody-

late-HCl (pH 7.4)

1% OsO_4 1

Epon

8) TUNEL

(apoptosis)

A549 (2×10^4 cell) chamber slide
10 MOI 4
ApopTag Kit (Intergen, Purchase, NY)
TUNEL assay diaminobenzidine (DAKO, Car-
pinteria, CA) 가
3 0.5% methyl
green 10 3
cover glass

1) E1B

E1B19kDa E1B55kDa 가 3
가 Ad-ΔE1B19/55, Ad-Δ
E1B19, Ad-ΔE1B55

E1
E1A, E1B19kDa, E1B55kDa
primer set PCR
E1
immunoblotting
Hep3B E1B
Ad-WT Ad-ΔE1
MOI 10
DNA

primer PCR
(Fig. 2A). Ad-ΔE1
PCR
, Ad-ΔE1B19/55 E1B19kDa E1B55kDa
E1A (479 bp)
. Ad-ΔE1B55 E1A (479 bp)
E1B19 (429 bp) PCR
, E1B55kDa E1B55kDa
primer set PCR
. E1B19kDa

Ad-ΔE1B19
Ad-WT E1A (479 bp), E1B19
(429 bp), E1B55 (338 bp) PCR
(Fig. 2B).

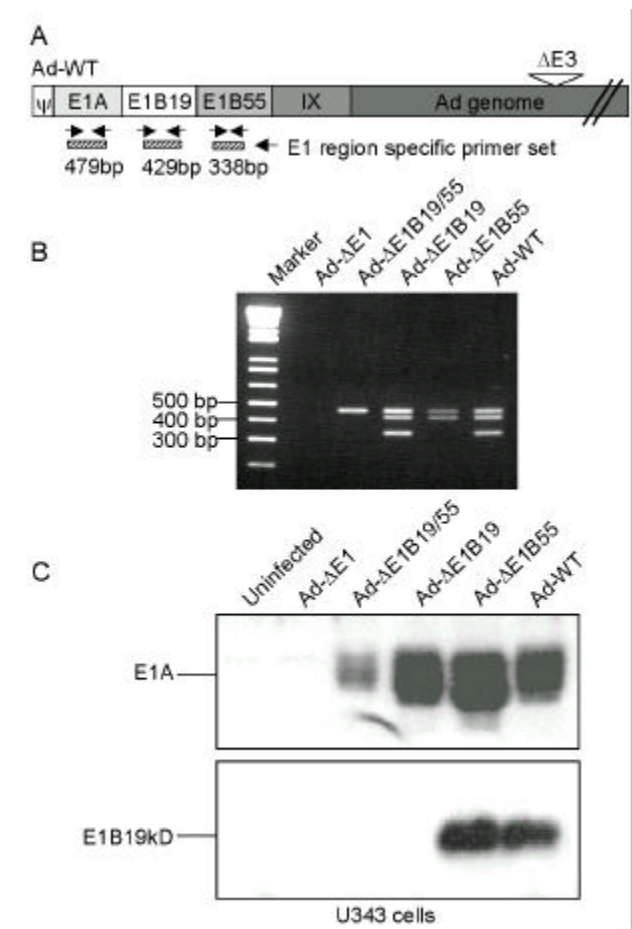
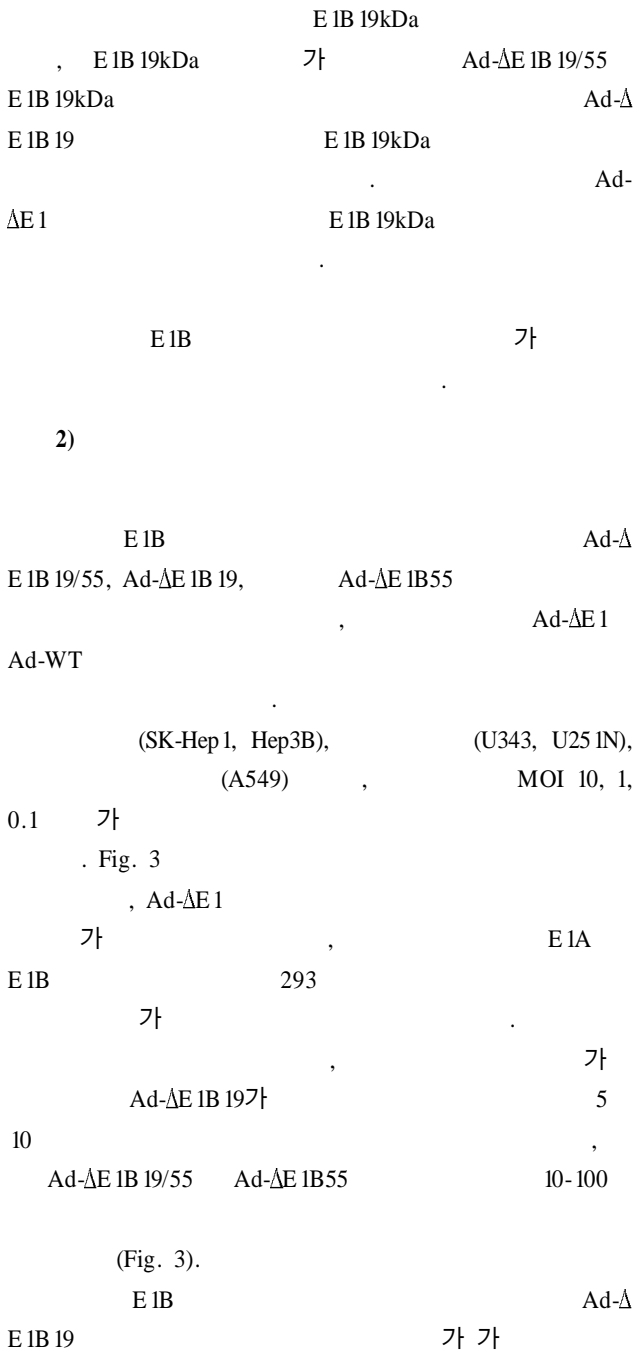
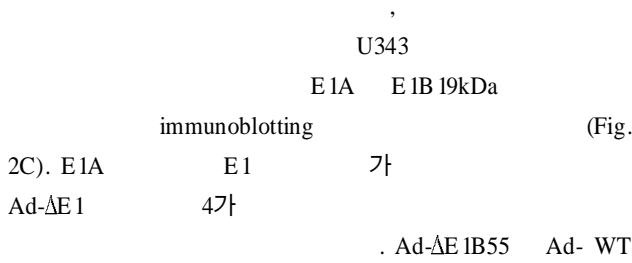
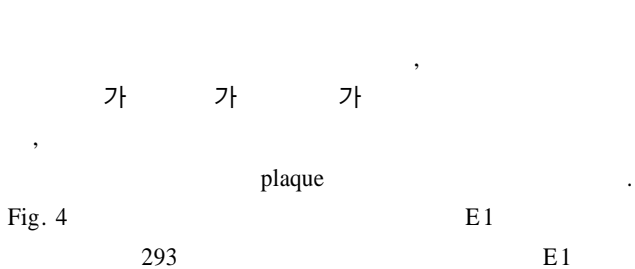


Fig. 2. (A) The E1 region specific primer sets corresponding to E1A, E1B19kD, and E1B55kD are shown below the diagram of E1 region of adenovirus genome. Each expected size of PCR products is 479 bp, 429 bp and 338 bp, respectively. (B) PCR product analysis of E1B mutant adenoviruses. Left, Marker (Life Technologies, Inc.), 1-kb DNA ladder. The presence of each PCR product verified the presence of the E1A, E1B19kD, or E1B55kD gene. (C) Detection of the E1A and E1B19kD protein by Western blot analysis. Twenty-four hours after infection, total protein from U343 cells infected with Ad-ΔE1, Ad-ΔE1B19, Ad-ΔE1B55, Ad-ΔE1B19/55, or Ad-WT at a dose of 10 MOI, were analyzed with anti-E1A or anti-E1B19 antibody as described in Materials and Methods.



3) Plaque



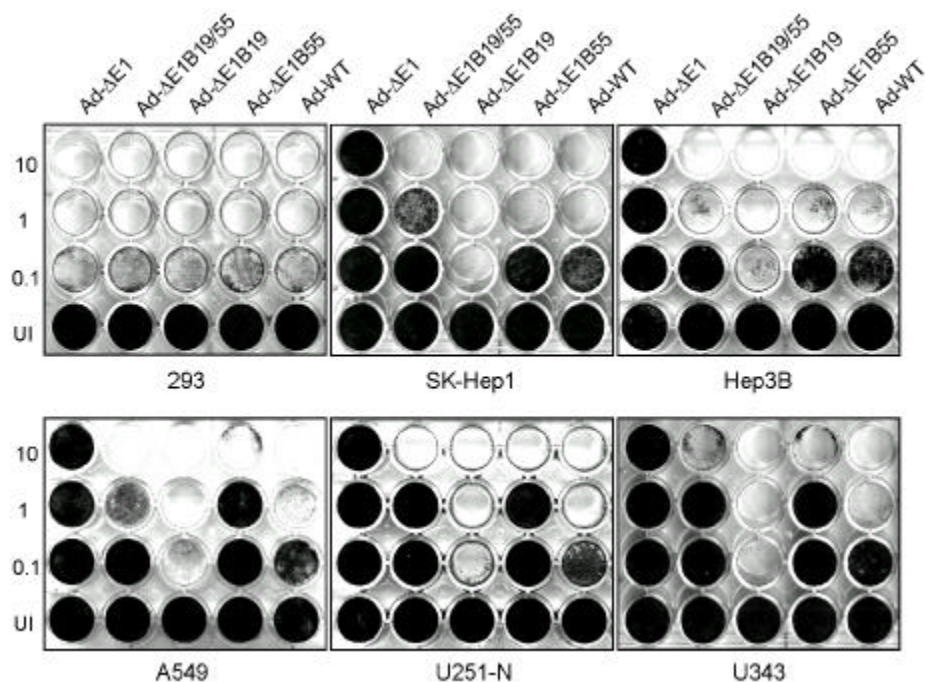


Fig. 3. CPE effects of replicating adenoviruses *in vitro*. Monolayers of cells were infected at an MOI of 0.1 to 10 with di adenoviruses, as indicated above the columns. Replication incompetent adenovirus Ad-ΔE1 and wild type aden Ad-WT served as controls. When cells infected with any kind of adenoviruses were completely lysed, cells rem on the plates were fixed and stained with crystal violet.

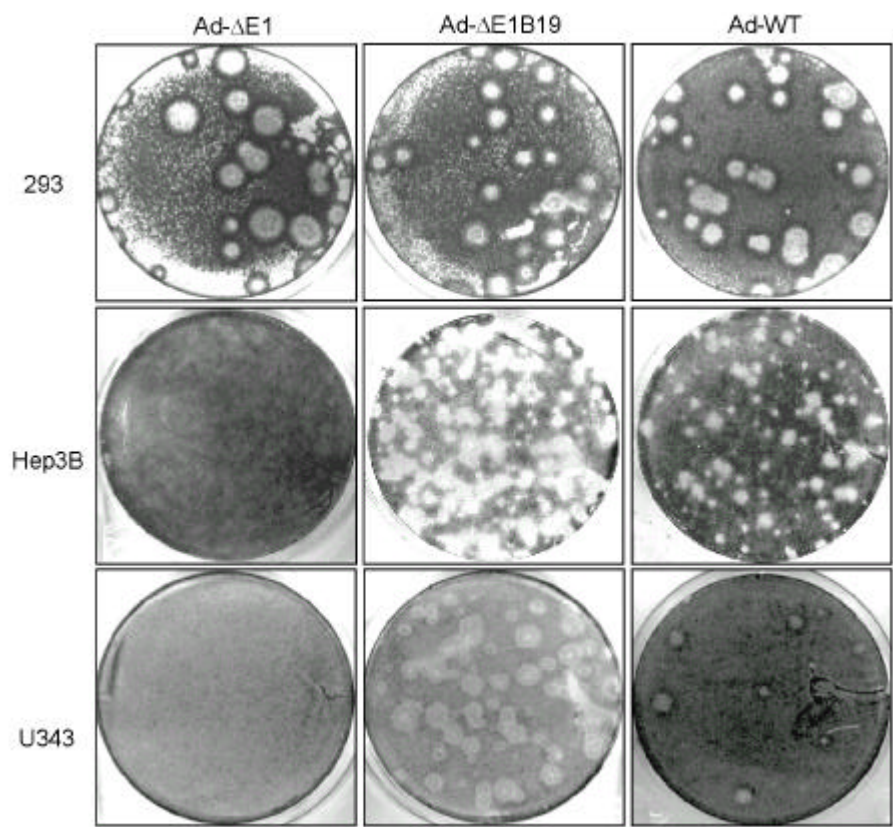


Fig. 4. Plaque morphology of Ad-Δ E1, Ad-ΔE1B19, and Ad-WT on 293, Hep3B, and U343 cells. After 4 hr adsorption period, plates were overlayed with agarose and incubated. At 10 days post infection, the agarose overlay was removed. Then, the cells were stained with crystal violet, and plates were photographed. Ad-ΔE1B19 lacking E1B19kDa mutant adenovirus developed bigger plaques than Ad-WT. Non-replicating adenovirus Ad-ΔE1 did not develop any plaque except on E1 complementing cell line 293.

Ad-ΔE 1, Ad-ΔE 1B 19, plaque

Ad-WT Hep3B U343

Ad-ΔE 1 plaque

Ad-ΔE 1B 19 Ad-WT 가 (18).

plaque 가

가 Ad-WT

, Ad-ΔE 1B 19/55 Ad-ΔE 1B55 Hep3B,

U343 Ad-WT plaque

plaque (data not shown).

4)

5) TUNEL Ad-ΔE 1B 19

Plaque , Ad-ΔE 1B55

Ad-WT

가 , p53 (G₀-G₁)

(arrest) (apoptosis) (19),

Ad-ΔE 1B 19/55 Ad-ΔE 1B 19 CPE E IB 19kDa Bax

가 Caspase ,

(Fig. 5). ,

, Ad-ΔE 1B 19

Ad-WT Hep3B (20). 가 4

. Fig. 6 Ad-ΔE 1B 19/55, Ad-ΔE 1B 19, Ad-ΔE 1B55

Hep3B Ad-WT E IB 19kDa

. Ad-WT

DNA . 가

MOI 10 A549 4

TUNEL assay DNA

. , Camptothecin (CPT)

μM A549

. Ad-WT 5%

(17). Ad-ΔE 1B 19

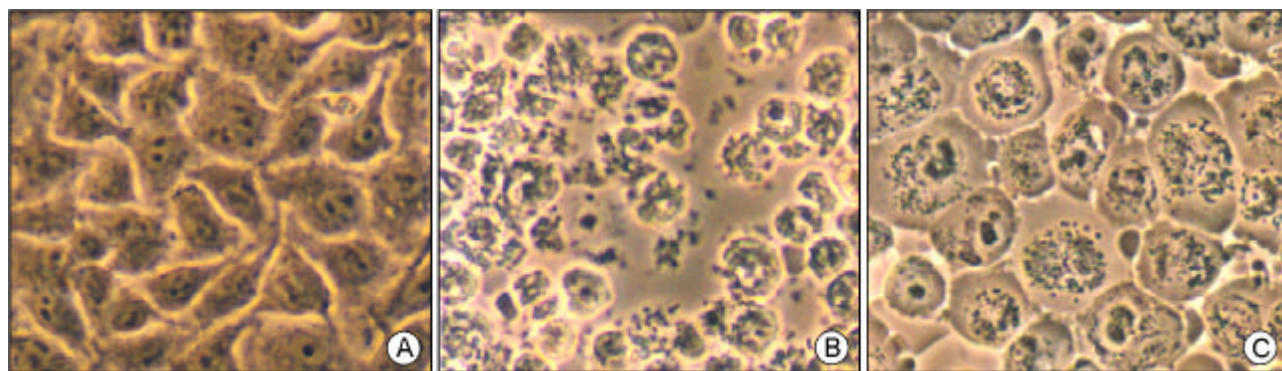


Fig. 5. Morphology of A549 cells infected with Ad-ΔE1 (A), Ad-ΔE1B19 (B), or Ad-WT (C). Infections were performed at an MOI of 10 as described in Materials and Methods. Micrographs of infected cells were taken at 4 days post infection.

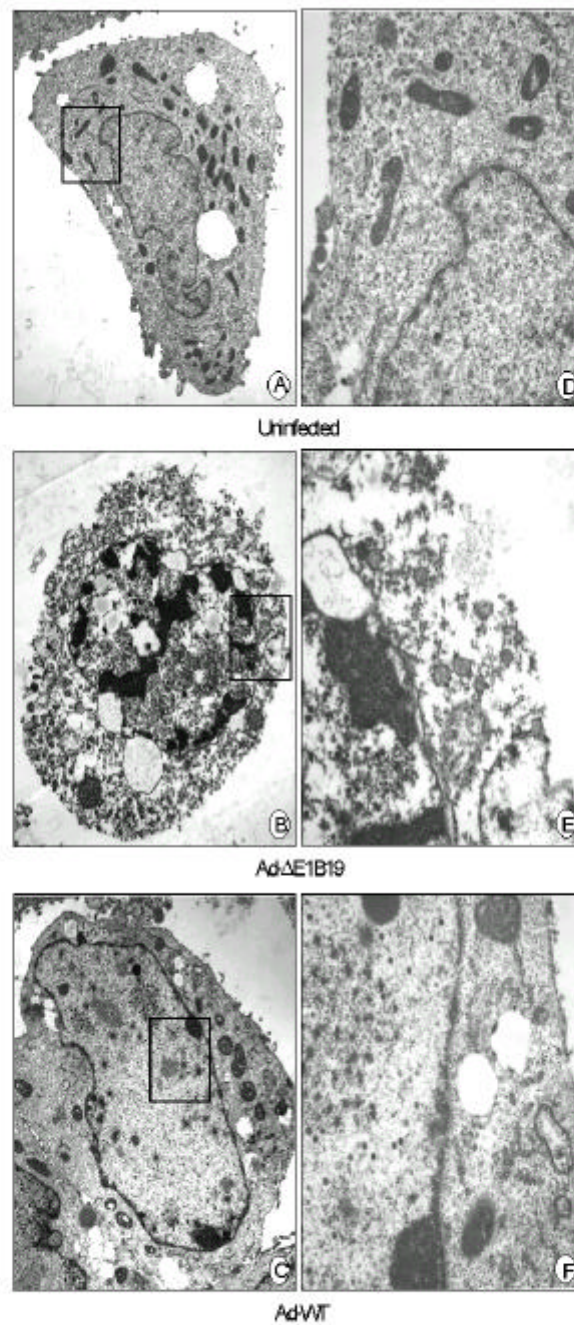


Fig. 6. Electron micrographs of uninfected (A, D) and infected Hep3B cells with Ad-ΔE1B19 (B, E) or Ad-WT (C, F) at 2 days post infection. Cells were infected at an MOI of 10 as described in Materials and Methods. Typical morphologies are shown. Original magnification were $\times 4,400$ (A, B, C) and $\times 20,000$ (D, E, F).

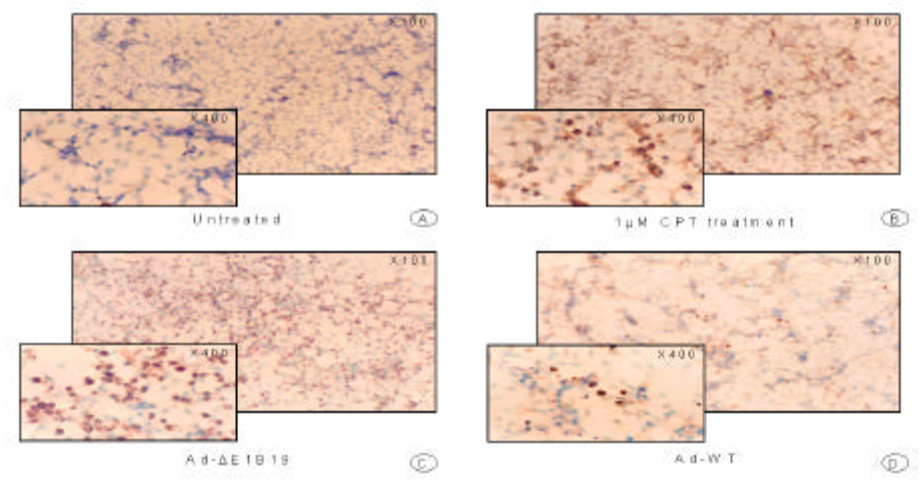
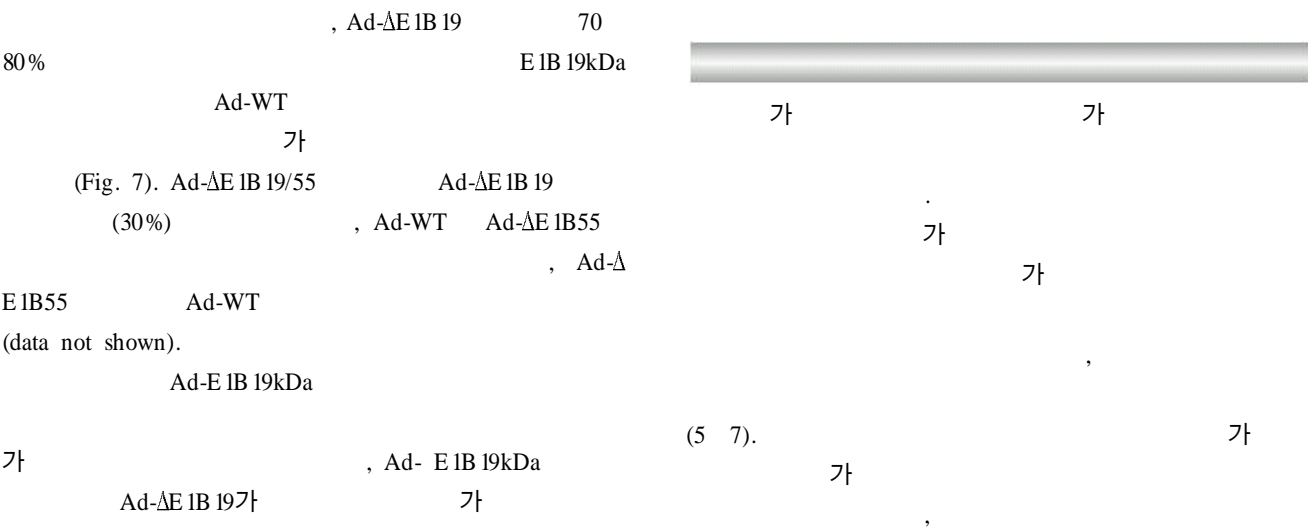


Fig. 7. TUNEL assay of A549 cells. At 4 days after treatment without (A) or with 1μM of camptothecin (B), or infection with Ad-ΔE IB 19 (C) or Ad-WT (D) at an MOI of 10, apoptotic cells were detected by labeling with DAB (3,3'-diaminobenzidine) using terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase (counter-stained with methyl green).



(21).

E IB

E IB 19kDa E IB55kDa

E IB

Ad-ΔE IB 19/55 Ad-ΔE IB55

Ad-WT E IB 19kDa

Ad-ΔE IB 19

가

p53

E IB55kDa p53

E IB55kDa

가

p53

, p53

Ad-ΔE IB 19가 E IB

(4 7).

E IB55kDa

가

plaque

YKL-1

(6,7).

, E IB55kDa

가

YKL-1

p53

(22), HPV

Ad-ΔE IB 19

dl 1520 (ONYX-015)

, mdm2

(Human Papiloma Virus)

(23), p 14ARF

p53

(24), E IB55kDa

mRNA

가

, E IB55kDa

Ad-ΔE IB 19가

E IB

E 1A

가

E IB 19kDa

E IB

Ad-ΔE IB 19

E IB55kDa

E IB 19kDa

YKL-1

가가

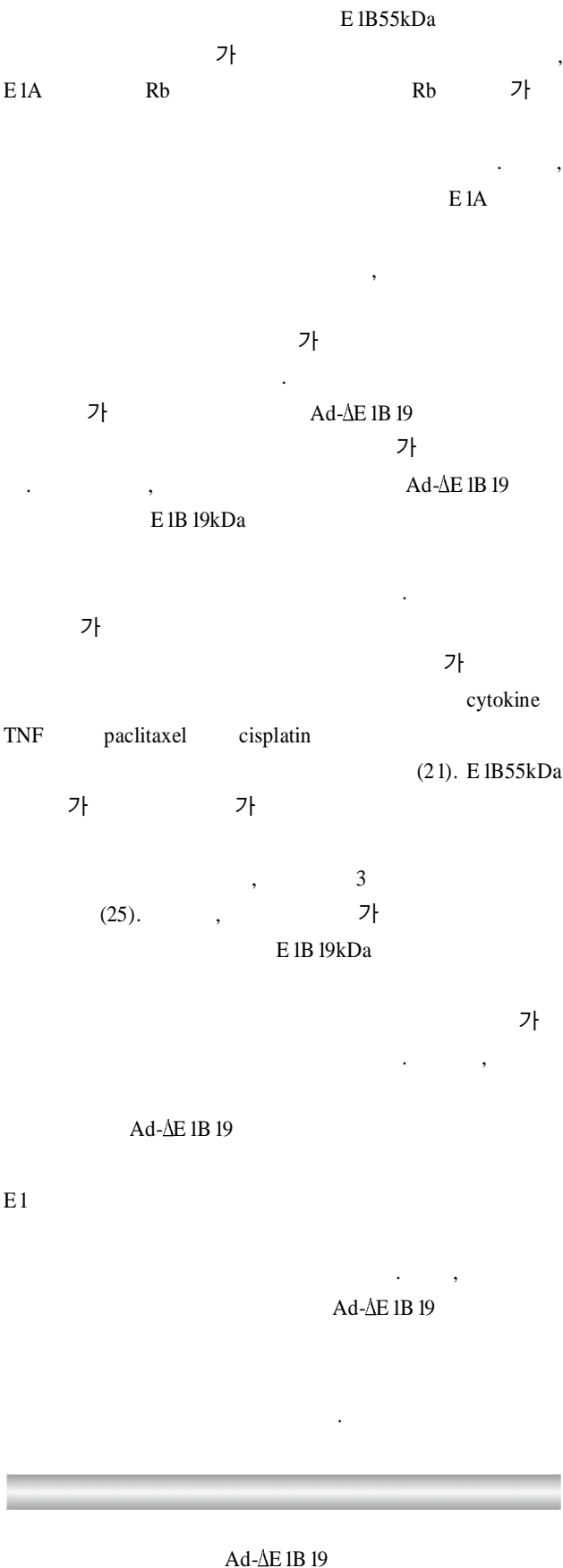
(6,7).

, E IB55kDa

E IB55kDa

, E IB55kDa

가



1. Vile RG, Russel SJ, Lemoine NR. Cancer gene therapy: hard lessons and new courses. *Gene Ther* 2000;7:2-8.
2. Runnebaum IB. Basics of cancer gene therapy. *Anticancer Res* 1997;17:2887-2890.
3. Graham FL. Covalently closed circles of human adenovirus DNA are infectious. *EMBO J* 1984;3(12):2917-2922.
4. Bischoff JR, Kim DH, Williams A, Heise C, Horn S, Muna M, Ng L, Nye JA, Sampson-Johannes A, Fattaey A, and McCormick F. An adenovirus mutant that replicates selectively in p53-deficient human tumor cells. *Science* 1996;274:373-376.
5. Nemunaitis J, Ganly I, Khuri F, Arseneau J, Kuhn J, McCarty T, Landers S, Maples P, Romel L, Randlev B, Reid T, Kaye S, Kim D. Selective replication and oncolysis in p53 mutant tumors with ONYX-015, an E1B-55kDa gene deleted adenovirus, in patients with advanced head and neck cancer: A phase II trial. *Cancer Research* 2000;60:6359-6366.
6. Lee H, Kim J, Lee B, Lee Y, Chang JW, Ahn J, Park JO, Choi J, Yun CO, Kim BS, Kim JH. Oncolytic potential of E1B 55kDa-deleted YKL-1 recombinant adenovirus: Correlation with p53 functional status. *Int J Cancer* 2000;88:454-463.
7. Kim JS, Lee BY, Kim JA, Ahn JB, Park JO, Yu NC, Kim JH, Noh JK, Min JS, Kim BS, Lee HR. Evaluation of E1B-mutant replicating adenoviruses for cancer gene therapy. *J Korean Cancer Assoc* 2000;32(1):200-209.
8. Chiou SK, Tseng CC, Rao L, White E. Functional complementation of the adenovirus E1B 19-kilodalton protein with Bcl-2 in the inhibition of apoptosis in infected cells. *J Virol* 1994;68(10):6553-6566.
9. Debbas M, White E. Wild-type p53 mediates apoptosis by E1A, which is inhibited by E1B. *Genes Dev* 1993;7:546-554.
10. Han J, Sabbatini P, Perez D, Rao L, Modha D, White E. The E1B 19K protein blocks apoptosis by interacting with and inhibiting the p53-inducible and death-promoting Bax protein. *Genes Dev* 1996;10:461-477.
11. Huang DC, Cory S, Strasser A. Bcl-2, Bcl-XL and adenovirus protein E1B 19kD are functionally equivalent in their ability to inhibit cell death. *Oncogene* 1997;14:405-414.
12. Tsuruta Y, Mandai M, Konishi I, Kuroda H, Kusakari T, Yura Y, Hamid AA, Tamura I, Kariya M, Fujii S. Combination effect of adenovirus-mediated pro-apoptotic bax gene transfer with cisplatin or paclitaxel treatment in ovarian cancer cell lines. *Eur J Cancer* 2001;37:531-541.
13. Babiss LE, Ginsberg HS, Damell JE Jr. Adenovirus E1B proteins are required for accumulation of late viral mRNA and for effects on cellular mRNA translation and transport. *Mol Cell Biol* 1985;5:2552-2558.
14. Pilder S, Moore M, Logan J, Shenk T. The adenovirus E1B-55K transforming polypeptide modulates transport or cytoplasmic stabilization of viral and host cell mRNAs. *Mol Cell Biol* 1986;6:470-476.
15. Chartier C, Degryse E, Gantzer M, Dieterle A, Pavirani A,

- Mehtali M. Efficient generation of recombination adenovirus vectors by homologous recombination in *Escherichia coli*. *J Virol* 1996;70:4805-4810.
16. Hitt M, Bett AJ, Prevec L, Graham FL. Construction and propagation of human adenovirus vectors. *Cell biology: a laboratory handbook*. New York: Academic Press Inc, 1994: 479-490.
17. Tollefson AE, Scaria, A Hermiston TW, Ryerse JS, Wold LJ, Wold WSM. The adenovirus death protein (E3-11.6K) is required at very late stages of infection for efficient cell lysis and release of adenovirus from infected cells. *J Virol* 1996; 70(4):2296-2306.
18. Wyllie AH, Kerr JF, Currie AR. Cell death: the significance of apoptosis. *Int Rev Cytol* 1980;68:251-306.
19. Prives C, Hall PA. p53 pathway. *J Pathology* 1999;187: 112-126.
20. White E. Regulation of apoptosis by adenovirus E1A and E1B oncogenes. *Semin Virol* 1998;8:505-513.
21. Khuri FR, Nemunaitis J, Ganly I, Arseneau J, Tannock IF, Romel L, Gore M, Ironside J, Macdougall RH, Heise C, Randlev B, Gillenwater AM, Brusio P, Kaye SB, Hong WK, Kirn DH. A controlled trial of intratumoral ONYX-015, a selectively replicating adenovirus, in combination with cisplatin and 5-fluorouracil in patients with recurrent head and neck cancer. *Nat Med* 2000;6:879-885.
22. Marchetti A, Buttlita F, Pellegrini S, Merlo G, Chella A, Angeletti CA, Bevilacqua G. MDM2 gene amplification and overexpression in non-small cell lung carcinomas with accumulation of the p53 protein in the absence of p53 gene mutations. *Dign Mol Pathol* 1995;4:93-97.
23. Scheffner M, Warness BA, Huibrechtse JM, Levine AJ. The E6 oncoprotein encoded by human papilloma virus type 16 and 18 promotes the degradation of p53. *Cell* 1990;63: 1129-1136.
24. Ries SJ, Brandts CH, Chung AS, Biederer CH, Hann BC, Lipner EM, McCormick F, Korn WM. Loss of p14^{ARF} in tumor cells facilitates replication of the adenovirus mutant dl1520 (ONYX-015). *Nat Med* 2000;6(10):1128-1133.
25. Kirn D, Martuza RL, Zwiebel J. Replication-selective virotherapy for cancer: Biological principles, risk management and future directions. *Nat Med* 2001;7:781-787.